

## Message Text

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53

ACTION PER-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W  
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R 281451Z OCT 75  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 651

UNCLAS OSLO 4759

FROM AMBASSADOR FOR PER/CA ARTHUR WORTZEL

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: APER NO  
SUBJ: NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE-DESIGNATED POSITIONS

REFS: A) OSLO 2886; B) OSLO 3544; C) OSLO 4152; D) STATE 235170

1. I WAS DISTURBED TO LEARN DURING MY RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON THAT A LACK OF DECISION REGARDING LANGUAGE-DESIGNATED POSITIONS IS HOLDING UP THE IDENTIFICATION OF QUALIFIED OFFICERS TO FILL OUR NEXT SUMMER VACANCIES. IN PARTICULAR, I AM CONCERNED TO BREAK THE LOG-JAM OVER THE DESIGNATION OF THE ECONOMIC-COMMER-CIAL COUNSELOR POSITION. FOR THE REASONS CITED REFTEL A), WE STILL BELIEVE REPLACEMENT FOR JOHN GRIFFITH SHOULD ARRIVE WITH COMPETENCE IN NORWEGIAN. BUT TO ACQUIRE THIS COMPETENCE, REPLACEMENT WILL NEED TO BE IDENTIFIED VERY SOON IN ORDER TO ENTER LANGUAGE COURSE EARLY NEXT YEAR.

2. SINCE DEPARTMENT UNABLE TO EXTEND OUR JUNIOR ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL OFFICER, JON GUNDERSEN (REFTEL D), WHOEVER REPLACES HIM SHOULD ALSO BE AT LEAST ABLE TO READ THE PRESS AND HAVE SOME BASIS FOR COMMUNICATION. THE PRESENT INCUMBENT IS NOW FLUENT IN NORWEGIAN AND HAS USED HIS ABILITY TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO EMBASSY WORK INCLUDING PROGRAMS OUTSIDE OF HIS IMMEDIATE RESPONSIBILITY (E.G., IN YOUTH CONTACT WORK). WE ALSO BELIEVE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER SHOULD HAVE SOME FLUENCY IN NORWEGIAN FOR REASONS OUTLINED IN REFTEL B.

3. MY PRIORITY CONCERN IS TO SEE THAT AN EARLY DECISION IS  
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MADE SO THAT QUALIFIED CANDIDATES CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND

TRAINED. WE RECOGNIZE, OF COURSE, THAT BUREAU MAY WELL FACE  
DIFFICULT DECISIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FUNDING OF TRAINING  
WHILE FILLING POSITIONS OF OFFICERS WHILE THEY ARE IN TRAINING.  
I WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN  
THE VARIOUS LANGUAGE-DESIGNATED POSITIONS, BUT IF IT PROVES  
IMPOSSIBLE TO SATISFY OUR NEEDS FOR THREE LANGUAGE-TRAINED  
OFFICERS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DROP REQUEST FOR LANGUAGE  
TRAINING OF FUTURE ADMIN OFFICER.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 75 OSLO 2886, 75 OSLO 3544, 75 OSLO 4152, 75 STATE 235170  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE-DESIGNATED POSITIONS  
**TAGS:** APER, NO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006